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Chief of Division

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

965 MISSION STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 3

May 5, 1952

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Captain J. L. Bird, Director
U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory
San Francisco Naval Shipyard
Hunters Point
San Francisco 24, California

Dear Captain Bird:

This Division is charged with the responsibility of supervising all places of employment in the State to see that they are safe. It is also empowered by the Legislature to adopt standard rules and regulations to accomplish this end.

The Division currently does have a number of regulations, called Safety Orders, which are contained in the California Administrative Code and have the force and effect of law.

The General Industry Safety Orders have a number of sections dealing with the control of radiation hazards. One of these covers the disposal of waste. At the present time the Division is seeking out those employers who use radioactive material and is requiring them to use the controls specified.

In one instance, here in San Francisco, a radium dial painting company was required to take its radioactive waste away for safe disposal. It is not considered safe, of course, to empty this material into the sewage system because of the danger of accumulation. In order to satisfy our requirements, this employer at present is delivering this waste material to an organization in Berkeley known as the Tracerlab Corporation or is having them pick it up. In either case he pays them a fee for this service. They, in turn, have some kind of agreement with the University of California, to deliver this radioactive waste to them. I understand that the University has, in turn, an agreement with you so that ultimate disposal of this radioactive waste is to the Radiological Defense Laboratory.

*See also memorandum
5/14 by Capt Bird on 5/5 #94645-
File # 8947-3
Capt. Bird to Corle 3-95343-240*

*(268)
Mr. Byrne, Jr.
background
on this
Etc.*

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Captain J. L. Bird

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The question is raised as to why this employer should not be allowed to bring this radioactive waste direct to your laboratory for ultimate disposal thereby accomplishing two things: first, reducing the cost to him for this service; and second, eliminating considerable unnecessary handling which exposes others to some degree of hazard.

Since, unquestionably, this proposal will arise in other places of employment in the Bay Area, it would seem important that this matter be thoroughly explored. I would greatly appreciate your investigating the possibility of having these employers deliver this waste directly to you for ultimate disposal. Also, can this be done without charge in the interest of protecting employees who handle these materials, as well as the general public.

Very truly yours,

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY


A. C. Blackman, Chief